

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 008469

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LY, US
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LIBYAN PROTEST OVER VIOLATION OF
CIVILIAN AIRSPACE

REF: TRIPOLI 0038

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING NOTE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL
OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

2. BEGIN TEXT. (AFTER COMPLIMENTS) THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE NOTE OF THE
LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC OF JANUARY 10, 1975 CONCERNING THE
FLIGHTS OF UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT ON JANUARY 10
AND WISHES TO INFORM THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC THAT THESE
AIRCRAFT AT NO TIME APPROACHED CLOSER THAN 25 NAUTICAL
MILES OF THE LIBYAN COAST AND REMAINED AT ALL TIMES OVER
INTERNATIONAL WATERS UNDER POSITIVE RADAR CONTROL. THE
FLIGHT PERSONNEL WERE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF CIVILIAN
AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA AND MAINTAINED APPROPRIATE DISTANCE
FROM THESE AIRCRAFT. THERE WAS NO PURSUIT OF CIVILIAN

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AIRCRAFT NOR WERE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT IN ANY WAY ENDANGERED

BY THESE FLIGHT OPERATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO ASSURE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LIBYAN ARAB

REPUBLIC THAT THE UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION WERE ON A ROUTINE MISSION OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS, IN KEEPING WITH THE LONGSTANDING UNITED STATES POSITION ON FREEDOM OF FLIGHT IN SUCH AREAS. SUCH FLIGHTS IN NO WAY CONSTITUTE A THREAT AGAINST ANY SOVEREIGN NATION. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TAKES NOTE OF THE REFERENCE TO SEVERAL SERIOUS AND POSITIVE INITIATIVES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC THAT IT IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE BEGUN BY THESE INITIATIVES IN THE HOPE OF IMPROVING THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE) END TEXT. KISSINGER

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